

REMARKS

The following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response to the outstanding Action. Currently, claims 1-36 are pending in this application and are submitted for consideration.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is noted with appreciation that claims 20-36 have been allowed, and that claims 3-5 and 7-17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The base and one or more intervening claims of claims 3-5 and 7-17 have been responded to as set forth below, specifically pointing that the allowable subject matter contained therein. Accordingly, the rewriting of claims 3-5 and 7-17 has been deferred.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 6 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Song et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,446,152, hereinafter "Song**").**

It is respectfully submitted that the present invention as set forth in claim 1 from which claims 2, 6 and 18 directly or indirectly depend is not disclosed in **Song**. It is evident that the signals transmitted to tracks 32, 34, 36 and 38 in Fig. 1 of **Song** are the same signals that are outputted from transmitters 12, 14, 16 and 18 and delayed by delay elements 15, 17 and 19 (see col. 2, line 64 to col. 3, line 15 in **Song**). Particularly,

Fig. 2 of **Song** clearly shows that signals T2, T3 and T4 lag the original signal T1 by a delay time which is introduced by the delay elements 15, 17 and 19. Therefore, the order that the transition edges appear in the four signals of **Song** is always constant, and the logical values cannot be expressed depending on the order that transition edges appear.

By contrast, claim 1 specifically requires that “the logical value is expressed by an order that transition edges appear in a plurality of transmission signals transmitting respectively on a plurality of signal lines.” As such, claim 1 recites subject matter which is neither disclosed nor suggested in **Song**.

Since claims 2, 6 and 18 depend from claim 1, they are also allowable over **Song** for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1.

Section 103 Rejection

Claim 19 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Song*.

Since claim 19 depends from claim 1, it is allowable over ***Song*** for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1.

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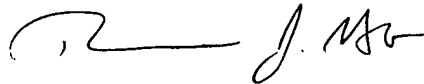
In view of the above remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that each of claims 1-36 recites subject matter which is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited art. Applicant therefore requests that this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

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